



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 06/30/2004

ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2004

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair; Joani LaMachia
Jeffrey Thielman, Vice Chair; Suzanne Owayda
Martin Thrope, Secretary;
Barbara Goodman

Members Absent: Sue Sheffler

Others Present: Kathleen Donovan, Superintendent; Rob Addelson, CFO

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm.

The chair announced that based on vacation schedules, August 10 was an opportunity for the committee to conduct business during the summer.

1. Superintendent Search Firm Contract

MOVED by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Ms. Owayda: To approve the contract with Future Management Systems subject to review and approval by Town Counsel.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Owayda noted that candidate travel and search committee or school committee travel are separate from the expenses estimated in the contract. Ms. Owayda compared the contract figures and the search budget with that of the previous search.

VOTE: Unanimous vote.

If Town Counsel agrees to the contract, it will be signed at the Superintendent Search Subcommittee meeting on July 1.

2. Budget Transfers

MOVED by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. Owayda: To approve the proposed transfers (see attached).

DISCUSSION: Of the residual unexpended funds totaling \$215,377, \$15,377 will be encumbered for Out of District Tuition/Transportation during the first three months of FY05. The balance of \$200,000 will be returned to the General Fund to satisfy the commitment made to the Finance Committee in connection with funding the FY04 retroactive contractual increase.

Mr. Addelson explained some of the surpluses and deficits:

- Middle School unexpended funds resulting from maternity leave
- SPED/Pupil Services contracted services demand was lower than the budgeted increase
- Instructional Support psychologist position was not filled
- Management Services CFO position was not filled until October, an Accounts Payable position was vacant
- Operations and Maintenance additional expenditures for Thompson oil tank, pumping out oil from tanks, etc., Peirce Field Licensed Site Professional, billing for DEP oversight for Stratton oil tank leak, equipment for Dallin moves

(additional desks and chairs at Peirce, additional lockers at Brackett), energy overages

Mrs. Donovan gave a brief history of the commitment to return \$200K to the Town. AEA negotiations were in process, the Town was in the red for the year, the contract proposals called for a retroactive increase, and the Town was negotiating with its unions. Meetings were held with the treasurer, the chair of the Finance Committee, the superintendent and the CFO. The only way they would allow going to Town Meeting with the retroactive increase was to commit to the \$200K return. The superintendent secured approval from the budget subcommittee and subsequently (May 11) from the full committee.

VOTE: Unanimous vote.

3. Other Business/Discussion

MOVED by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Ms. Lamachia: That the committee meet Tuesday, August 3 at 7:30 pm to conduct whatever business is before us and to complete the self evaluation process.

VOTE: Unanimous vote.

Mr. Thrope will contact Jim Hardy of MASC to clear the date with him.

Mrs. Donovan reported that Charles Skidmore would begin as principal of Arlington High School on August 20. Mrs. Donovan will distribute a draft of his contract to the committee.

Mrs. Donovan also reported the following changes taking place for elementary principals. Mr. Lynch is retiring. Mr. Penta is moving to the Peirce School. An interim principal will be chosen for the Brackett School. A decision will be made at the end of the year as to whether Mr. Penta will be permanently placed at the Peirce School.

Mrs. Donovan offered to make sure that both the July 26 at 3pm Policies and Procedures subcommittee meeting and the August 3 full committee meeting are posted.

MOVED by Ms. Owayda, seconded by Ms. Lamachia to adjourn.

VOTE: Unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Thrope, Secretary